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TWIN DAUGHTERS of Richard G. Fecteau of Lynn, Army civilian aide sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in Red China as an American spy, are Sidnice (left) and Suzon. Inset, Fecteau as he appeared in 1949, when he was a member of B.U. football squad.

Ex-Lynn Star Gets 20 Years as 'Spy'

Red China Jails Fecteau, Others

A Lynn man, a former school-boy and Boston University athlete, yesterday was named as one of 22 "American spies" condemned to death or imprisonment in Red China.

It was announced that Richard G. Fecteau, 27, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip D. Fecteau of 15 Wyman st., has been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. He was one of 13 Americans in the group named by Peiping Radio.

Shot Down

An administrative assistant to the Army, he was taken prisoner Nov. 29, 1952, when a plane carrying him from Japan to Korea was shot down over northeast China.

He has not been heard from since. About a year ago the U. S. government declared him dead.

The Chinese broadcast picked up in London charged him with involvement in an espionage case with "John Thomas Downey," named as a Connecticut native.

"Both were special agents of the Central Intelligence Agency," the radio message stated. "Fecteau and Downey worked with Atsuki, Japanese espionage organization of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency."

"Downey and Fecteau were both captured on the night of Nov. 29, 1952, when they entered Northeast China in a U. S. plane, made contact with and provided supplies to air-dropped agents and attempted to pick up Li Chun Ying, who was to report," the broadcast went on.

"Their plane was shot down." Fecteau's twin, Philip, last night said the family plans to appeal to the government for intervention in the case.

STARRED AS TACKLE

Fecteau was an all-scholastic tackle for Lynn Classical High School, from which he was graduated in 1944. He served in the Merchant Marine in World War II. Later he entered Boston University and was a member of its football squad.

He went into government service after his graduation in 1951. For three years he was stationed in Washington.

His first marriage, to Margaret Durkee of Lynn, ended in divorce. He leaves twin daughters, Sidnice and Suzon, by this marriage. On Sept. 27, 1953 his second wife, 26-year-old Joanne Deem Fecteau, perished in a flash fire that swept a Maryland cottage. She had been working in Washington. He leaves two other brothers, Bertram, of Amesbury, and Robert, 12.

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